

Documents on Diplomacy: Resources

Key Players: Section XI, The Later Cold War

Jacopo Arbenz Guzman: President of Guatemala from 1951 to 1954, Arbenz was suspected of communist sympathies. He was ousted in a CIA-backed coup in 1954. His left-leaning government was replaced by a military junta led by Colonel Castillo Armas.

Dean Acheson: Secretary of State from 1949 to 1953 during the administration of President Harry S Truman. He was influential in developing U.S. Cold War positions and policies, playing a central role in the design of the Marshall Plan and the development of the Truman Doctrine.

Buzz Aldrin: An Apollo 11 crew member, Aldrin was the second man to walk on the surface of the moon.

Neil Armstrong: Captain of the Apollo 11 crew, Armstrong was the first man to set foot on the moon. He said, "That's one small step for man; one giant leap for mankind."

Fulgencio Batista: The last dictator and military leader of Cuba. He staged a coup in 1952 and was in turn overthrown by Fidel Castro in 1959.

Menachem Begin: Sixth prime minister of Israel. Begin is known for negotiating and then signing a peace treaty with Egyptian president Anwar Sadat in 1979.

David Ben-Gurion: A Zionist leader who became the first Prime Minister of Israel.

Leonid Brezhnev: Led the Soviet Union from 1964 to 1982 from his position as the General Secretary of the Communist party.

McGeorge Bundy: National Security Advisor for Presidents Kennedy and Johnson from 1961 to 1965. He is best known for his involvement in the Vietnam War.

Zbigniew Brzezinski: National Security Advisor under President Jimmy Carter, 1977-1981.

Jimmy Carter: President of the United States from 1977-1981. Carter is remembered for brokering

peace between Israel and Egypt in 1979 and for the Iran hostage crisis later that year.

Carlos Castillo Armas: A member of the military junta that replaced President Arbenz in 1954, Castillo Armas became sole president when the others resigned several months later. He was assassinated in 1957.

Fidel Castro: A Cuban communist revolutionary, Castro overthrew the government of Fulgencio Batista in 1959. He was prime minister (1959-1976) and president (1976-2008) of Cuba. He is best remembered for his opposition to the US-backed invasion of Cuban exiles at the Bay of Pigs in 1961.

Chiang Kai-shek: (Jiang Jieshi) A close ally of Sun Yat-sen, Chiang became leader of the Chinese Nationalist party after Sun's death. He led the Nationalists in a civil war with the Chinese Communist Party. He was eventually forced to flee and reconstituted his state on the island of Taiwan, where he lived until his death in 1975.

Winston Churchill: Britain's eloquent wartime Prime Minister. He was voted out of office in 1945, but returned to serve as prime minister one more time. Churchill's mother was an American. A statue of Churchill outside of the British Embassy in Washington, D.C. has one foot on American soil as a tribute to his heritage and the Anglo-American relationship.

Michael Collins: The third member of the Apollo 11 crew. Collins was the only crew member not to land on the moon—he remained in the orbiting space craft.

Anatoly Dobrynin: A Soviet diplomat appointed ambassador to the United States by Nikita Khrushchev in 1962. He served at that post until 1986.

Gerald Ford: President of the United States after the resignation of Richard M. Nixon in 1974. Ford failed to win reelection in 1976.

J. William Fulbright: A United States Senator known for the internationalist views. A foreign exchange program, the Fulbright Program, is named for him.

Mikhail Gorbachev: The last head of state of the Soviet Union, serving until its dissolution in 1991. Gorbachev was the only General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party to have been born during Soviet rule.

Andrei Gromyko: A Soviet Cold War-era diplomat, Gromyko served as Minister of Foreign Affairs from 1957 to 1985.

Henry "Scoop" Jackson: An influential American political leader, first in the House of Representatives and later in the Senate. Jackson was first elected in 1941 and served until his death in 1983.

Lyndon Baines Johnson: President of the United States from 1963-1969. Johnson became president after the assassination of John Kennedy and was elected in a landslide in 1964. Unpopular on account of his Vietnam policies, Johnson chose not to run for reelection in 1968.

George Kennan: A prominent U.S. diplomat known as the "father of containment." His 1946 "Long Telegram," commenting on Soviet affairs is considered the foundation document of the U.S. position in the Cold War.

John F. Kennedy: The second youngest president ever elected (age 43), JFK served from 1961 until his assassination in 1963. He brought a young and glamorous atmosphere to the presidency and challenged Americans to land a man on the moon.

Jacqueline Kennedy: Wife of John F. Kennedy and one of the youngest First Ladies (at age 31) in U.S. history.

Yahya Khan: President of Pakistan from 1969 to 1971. He facilitated the first secret diplomatic mission of Henry Kissinger to China.

Ayatollah Khomeini: An Islamic religious figure, exiled under the Shah of Iran. After the overthrow of the Shah, Khomeini became Iran's Supreme Leader until his death in 1989.

Nikita Khrushchev: The leader of the Soviet Union after the death of Joseph Stalin. Khrushchev was the first Soviet leader to visit the United States. He held power until 1964.

Jeanne Kirkpatrick: Ronald Reagan's influential foreign policy advisor during the 1980 election, Kirkpatrick became the first American woman to become U.S. Representative to the United Nations.

Henry Kissinger: Richard Nixon's National Security Advisor and later Secretary of State for both Presidents Nixon and Ford. Kissinger is best known for his "shuttle diplomacy" and secret diplomatic mission to China.

Vladimir Lenin: A Marxist revolutionary who led the 1917 October Revolution in Russia. He worked to create a socialist economic system.

Mao Tse-tung: (Mao Zedong) Leader of the Chinese Communist Party, Mao ousted Chiang Kai-shek and founded the People's Republic of China.

George C. Marshall: U.S. Army Chief of Staff during World War II, Marshall later served as President Truman's Secretary of State and then as Secretary of Defense.

Karl Marx: A German philosopher whose ideas provided the foundation for socialism in his influential book, The Communist Manifesto.

Joseph McCarthy: Conservative Wisconsin Senator who claimed that communists were secretly infiltrating the U.S. Government. The anti-communist movement was much larger than one man, but it is generally referred to today as "McCarthyism."

Robert McNamara: U.S. Secretary of Defense from 1961 to 1968. McNamara played a key role in escalating U.S. military involvement in the Vietnam war. He later said that his actions were wrong.

Gamal Abdel Nasser: Leader of the Egyptian Revolution of 1952, Nasser served as president of Egypt from 1956 to 1970. He was instrumental in founding the Non-Aligned Movement, which rejected formal alignment with any major power bloc.

Richard M. Nixon: President of the United States, elected in 1968, known for improving relations with the Soviet Union, establishing diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, and ending U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War. Domestic politics and scandal forced Nixon from office in 1974.

Robert Ode: One of the American diplomats held hostage in Tehran for 444 days, beginning in November 1979. Ode kept a diary of his experiences.

Ronald W. Reagan: President of the United States from 1981 to 1989. Reagan was known both for his strong anti-communist stance as well as his summit meetings with Soviet leaders. In a famous 1982 speech, Reagan urged Soviet leader Gorbachev to "tear down" the Berlin Wall.

Dean Rusk: Secretary of State, 1961-1969, under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson. Rusk is the second longest serving Secretary of State.

Anwar Sadat: Egyptian leader best remembered for negotiating a 1979 peace treaty with Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin. Sadat was assassinated in 1981.

Shah of Iran: (Mohammed Reza Palavi) The last Shah, or supreme ruler, of Iran, deposed in the 1979 Islamic Revolution. The Shah's entry into the United States for medical treatment triggered the hostage taking of American diplomats in Tehran. He died in exile.

Anastasio Somoza Debayle: President (and dictator) of Nicaragua during the 1970s, Somoza was the last Nicaraguan leader of a family that had held power since 1936. He was assassinated while in exile in 1980.

Joseph Stalin: Leader of the Soviet Union from 1941 to 1953. Stalin was the General Secretary of the Communist Party and transformed that post into the most important position in the USSR. During the war, Americans referred to him as "Uncle Joe."

Margaret Thatcher: British Prime Minister during the 1980s, Thatcher was known for her tough international policies and strong support of the Anglo-American alliance and a close working relationship with President Ronald Reagan.

Adlai Stevenson: A noted leader of the Democratic party during the 1950s, Stevenson twice failed to win election as president. He served as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, 1961-1965.

Clewellyn E. "Tommy" Thompson: U.S. Ambassador to the Soviet Union from 1957 to 1962 and again from 1967 to 1969. Thompson provided key advice to President Kennedy during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Leon Trotsky: A leader of the Russian communist party, Trotsky was second in power only to Vladimir Lenin. Trotsky was later removed from power, deported, and assassinated on Stalin's orders.

Harry S Truman: U.S. Senator from Missouri selected to be FDR's vice presidential running mate in 1944. Truman became President after FDR's death in April 1945. He was known as a tough and ethical—although often unpopular—leader. Truman had no middle name, so there is no period after the letter, "S". Department of State headquarters in Washington, D.C. is known as the "Harry S Truman Building."

U Thant: A Burmese diplomat who served as Secretary General of the United Nations, 1961-1971.

Lech Walesa: A Polish shipyard worker who became the leader of the trade union movement Solidarity in 1980. Solidarity forced the communist Polish government to reform. Walesa later became Poland's head of state.

Charles Vanik: A U.S. Representative, Vanik cosponsored the Jackson-Vanik Amendment with Senator Henry "Scoop" Jackson.

Zhou En-lai: (Chou En-lai) A close associate of Mao Zedong, Zhou was the first premier of the People's Republic of China. A skilled diplomat, Zhou later served as China's foreign minister and helped orchestrate the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and the PRC.